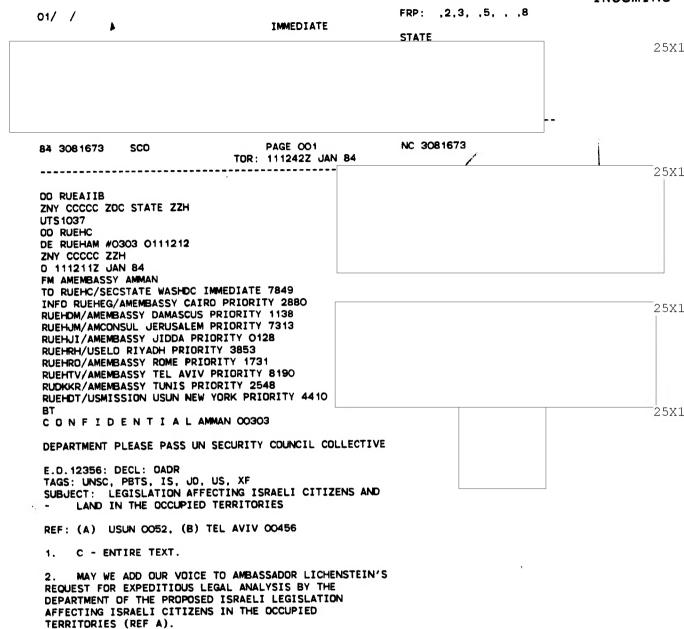
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- EMBASSY TEL AVIV'S PROPOSED RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ALI (REF B) IS FINE SO FAR AS IT GOES. BUT WE SUGGEST THE PRIMARY POINT AT ISSUE IS WHETHER THE LEGISLATION CONTRAVENES ISRAEL'S OBLIGATIONS AS AN OCCUPYING POWER UNDER THE FOURTH GENEVA CONVENTION. THE GOI'S BLAND ASSURANCES THAT THE LEGISLATION REPRESENTS NOTHING MORE THAN AN ATTEMPT TO DEAL PRAGMATICALLY WITH PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE GROWING NUMBER OF ISRAELIS RESIDENT OR DOING BUSINESS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES SOUNDS BEGUILINGLY REASONABLE. BUT "PRAGMATIC" ISRAELI APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CONTINUED OCCUPATION OF THE TERRITORIES OVER THE YEARS HAVE NOT INFREQUENTLY RESULTED IN THE CEMENTING IN PLACE OF "LEGAL" REGIMES THAT ARE NEITHER LEGAL IN THE CONTEXT OF THE APPLICABLE GENEVA CONVENTIONS NOR CONSONANT WITH IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR LOOSENING THE ISRAELI GRIP ON THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.
- 4. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT KING HUSSEIN EXPRESSED

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SERIOUS CONCERN OVER THESE PROSPECTIVE ISRAELI LEGISLATIVE MOVES IN SEPARATE MEETINGS DURING THE WEEKEND WITH CODEL MCHUGH AND CODEL TOWER. HE HAS TOLD ME PRIVATELY THAT HE HAS TASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY WITH PROVIDING AN ANALYSIS OF THE LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION. DEPENDENT ON THE NATURE OF THE LAWYERS' DETERMINATION, THE KING HAS INDICATED HE INTENDS TO CONTACT THE PRESIDENT ON THE ISSUE. ALL THE MORE REASON TO HASTEN WITH OUR OWN LEGAL EVALUATION. VIETS END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

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